

NEWS

FROM ZEV YAROSLAVSKY

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YAROSLAVSKY ISSUES STATEMENT ON PENDING CLOSURE OF NORTHRIDGE HOSPITAL

Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky today issued the following statement concerning the announced plans by Catholic Healthcare West to close Northridge Hospital and sell the property for commercial development:

“The announcement of the sale of Northridge Hospital’s Sherman Way campus in the San Fernando Valley is the latest in a series of hospital and emergency room closures that will burden the entire county of Los Angeles and its environs in the years ahead.

“When considered individually, the closure of any one hospital and/or emergency room may not seem that significant. In fact, Northridge Hospital and its owner, Catholic Healthcare West, have attempted to mitigate the impact of its decision by working with Valley Presbyterian Hospital and other San Fernando Valley providers to absorb their clients.

“However, the sad and incontrovertible fact is that throughout our region hospital and emergency room capacity is plummeting, and the absorption capacity of the rest of the system is being taxed beyond its limits. After all of the hospitals and emergency rooms that are scheduled to close do so, Southern California and its citizens will be left with fewer hospital beds and more crowded emergency rooms than ever before.

(MORE)

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Northridge Hospital

“The continued loss of inpatient beds and emergency rooms strategically impairs the fundamental ability of the Emergency Medical Service (EMS) system to perform as intended. Patient bottlenecking in the emergency rooms will increase, and paramedic ambulances will be tied up for greater periods of time putting our community’s health at greater risk and driving up EMS costs.

“This is a national problem, and our national leaders both in the executive and legislative branch need to address it immediately. Our capacity as a society to provide hospital care for our communities’ normal demand as well as for regional emergencies, epidemics, chemical or biological incidents, is being compromised before our very eyes.”

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